

# making hoosiers safer



*"This is probably the best thing  
to happen to Indiana public  
safety agencies ever!"*

Sgt. Mike Horton  
Dearborn County Sheriff's Department



# taking on tough challenges

## **Why SAFE-T is Important**

Every day, public safety personnel throughout Indiana take on the tough challenge of making Hoosier communities safe. Hoosier police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other first responders put their lives on the line each day to protect us.

However, the challenge of protecting citizens from crime and fallout from natural disasters is greater today than any previous period in history.

When Indiana public safety personnel go to work, they face emergencies such as:

- Chasing criminals at speeds exceeding 100 mph;
- Cleaning spilled hazardous materials from a railroad derailment site;
- Evacuating residents due to toxic fumes from an industrial fire;
- Clearing and opening roads and highways during a snowstorm;
- Transporting accident victims to the hospital; and
- Rescuing people and securing property after a tornado.

Agencies also facing daunting new challenges:

- Tight agency budgets mean first responders have fewer resources to fight crime;
- Public safety agencies must protect Hoosiers from the threat of terrorist attacks; and
- Indiana has experienced a growing number of new, high profile crimes such as child abductions, methamphetamine production, identity theft and carjacking.



First responders need effective crime-fighting tools that will maximize their resources and enhance their ability to protect Hoosiers. Many homeland security experts say that interoperable communications networks are one of the best tools available to enhance public safety.

**That is why a growing number of first responder agencies are taking action by joining Project Hoosier SAFE-T.**

## What is Project Hoosier SAFE-T?

Project Hoosier SAFE-T has a simple objective: to provide reliable radio communications between Indiana police, fire-fighters, emergency medical technicians and other first responders. The network will help officers save lives, capture criminals faster and improve agencies' tactical capabilities by allowing local, state and federal public safety agencies throughout Indiana to talk with each other. This is the first time that all Indiana public safety communications can be brought together under a unified network.

The lack of interoperable communications played a life and death role during the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. A police helicopter pilot saw the south tower about to collapse and was able to warn police personnel. But since the fire radios and the police radios were on different frequencies, firefighters did not get the order to evacuate message. Lives were lost.

Lack of interoperability is a problem right here in Indiana. For example:

- In March of 1998, the worst snowstorm in 30 years hit several northwest Indiana counties, shutting down heavily traveled interstates. Incompatible radio systems left officers with little interagency communication during a time when they needed it most. There were significant delays in rescuing motorists and clearing roads.
- In April 1998, a criminal robbed a bank in Carmel, Indiana, killed the manager and wounded others. Eight police agencies from Hamilton and Marion counties responded with a manhunt. The agencies could not communicate with each other because of incompatible radio systems.
- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and National Guard conducted rescues on rain-swollen southern Indiana rivers. Their incompatible systems forced them to communicate by shouting across the river.
- An attack at the VX nerve agent storage site in Newport Indiana could be catastrophic if local, state and federal safety agencies are not able to communicate with each other.

Interoperability is Project Hoosier SAFE-T's most important asset. Using a Motorola 800-megahertz digital voice and mobile data communication system, the SAFE-T network will permit Indiana police departments, fire departments, ambulance units and other emergency response personnel to talk to each other on demand. The network also has the capacity to connect non-800 MHz systems. Better communication on the front lines will result in safer communities for all Hoosier citizens.

The network infrastructure installation is underway. The project is scheduled for completion in 2006.



# Project Hoosier SAFE-T

## First Responders Help Design the SAFE-T Network

Project Hoosier SAFE-T is a network designed for public safety personnel. So it's appropriate that local public safety agencies play a significant role in the development and deployment of SAFE-T.

The Integrated Public Safety Commission (IPSC) is the governing body that oversees Project Hoosier SAFE-T. The Indiana General Assembly created the IPSC in 1999. Its members come from the police, fire, emergency and other public safety communities as well as representatives from local and state governments. For a current listing of the members of the IPSC, visit our web site at <http://www.in.gov/ipsc/safe-t>.





# Cost Effective Approach

## Cost Advantages

Today, most public safety agencies operate stand-alone radio systems. Only personnel who use compatible equipment can communicate with each other. However, costs associated with any system infrastructure – towers, equipment and system maintenance – are expensive. In fact, radio towers and system maintenance can comprise as much as 60 percent of the total network cost.

Project Hoosier SAFE-T saves money for local jurisdictions by eliminating user agencies' system infrastructure costs. The IPSC provides an effective, reliable statewide network for public safety agencies so local officials can invest dollars in other crime fighting activities. And, Project Hoosier SAFE-T is unique in that it charges no user fee for going on the system.



## First Responders Need SAFE-T

In an emergency, every second is critical. Hoosiers want a fast response when they dial 911. Interoperability on the SAFE-T network will minimize delays by dispatching the closest vehicle to the scene - even if it is from a different agency. Interoperability also means that front-line officers in trouble can receive help more quickly and minimize exposure to risky situations.

Under most existing communications systems, police officers and firefighters can't talk to each other during routine patrols or during an emergency. If a first responder requires immediate assistance, it doesn't matter that the responder wears a different uniform. The only thing that matters is helping the person in trouble. Agencies with radios that can't interoperate expose their personnel to greater danger.

All first responders - law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, hazardous materials response teams and other public safety workers - need fast, efficient radio communications systems. That is why Indiana public safety agencies need Project Hoosier SAFE-T.

*"Since September 11, 2001, many of the nation's homeland security experts agree that interoperability is the single most glaring tactical vulnerability of confronting public safety agencies."*

*"We can't have any lives lost just because the agencies can't talk to each other," "Interoperable communications can mean the difference between life and death for citizens and public safety personnel."*

Rick Murphy

*Sheriff Magazine, July 2002*



## SAFE-T Eliminates Local Infrastructure Costs

The SAFE-T network can generate significant savings for participating agencies. Installation and maintenance of system infrastructure is the most expensive portion of any communication network. Expenses for building a single tower can be as much as \$500,000, plus operational and maintenance costs.

Agencies that join the SAFE-T network don't have to worry about investing in infrastructure costs because the IPSC provides the system backbone. Further, Project Hoosier SAFE-T has committed to provide this statewide infrastructure with **no monthly or annual fees**, so agencies only need supply user equipment for dispatcher and front-line users.

**The SAFE-T network will save lives and provide savings to the bottom line!**

## SAFE-T Permits Agencies to Manage System Resources

Even though the IPSC is building a network that reaches all of Indiana, it does not mean that agencies lose system control. The SAFE-T network provides talkgroups – user lists that allow each agency to decide who will communicate on the network and which discussions can be heard by persons outside the agency. For instance, agencies can establish a talkgroup specifically for commanders, so critical strategic information can be discussed without being broadcast to a wider audience. Also, they can establish talkgroups that allow officers to communicate with each other, or to call a neighboring jurisdiction for assistance. Either way, the SAFE-T network allows agencies to manage their own system resources.



## It's easy to join SAFE-T.

IPSC field coordinators work with local agency commanders, communications directors and elected officials up front — *before* the system infrastructure is installed — to determine specific coverage needs. This ensures that first responders have the best possible coverage from the network and that their priorities are reflected in the system design.

After IPSC meets with local officials, the following steps take place before the SAFE-T network is implemented:

- The IPSC evaluates tower sites for use in the SAFE-T network. To keep costs down, the IPSC will use as many existing tower sites as possible;
- Conduct a detailed design review, which finalizes locations where infrastructure equipment is placed to maximize radio coverage;
- Acquire licenses and permits for system frequencies;
- Install infrastructure equipment;
- The IPSC assists agencies to identify potential funding sources for purchasing user equipment;
- Agencies integrate user equipment onto the network; and
- First responders enjoy the benefits of interoperability.





# Saving Money Saving Lives



## **SAFE-T Advantages**

SAFE-T will help agencies save lives and save money. The SAFE-T network gives public safety agencies a cost-efficient way to upgrade communications. Agencies can eliminate system infrastructure costs and SAFE-T's interoperability feature gives first responders an important weapon in their arsenal that will help protect citizens against threats from crime, terrorism, and natural disasters.

**Currently, taxpayers may be paying for as many as 3-5 separate radio networks in a jurisdiction that may not allow first responders to communicate with each other. SAFE-T will allow local jurisdictions to operate under a single unified network saving taxpayer dollars.**

Other Project Hoosier SAFE-T advantages include:

- Motorola's user equipment prices won't change until July 1, 2007, with discounts of 20-25 percent available when purchased through IPSC;
- Volume discount on maintenance;
- Advanced state-of-the-art technology to replace outmoded, disparate communication systems that may be up to 40 years old; and

## **Advantages For First Responders**

- Reliable voice and data coverage;
- Reduce response time for first responder backup;
- Enhanced incident command coordination capability.

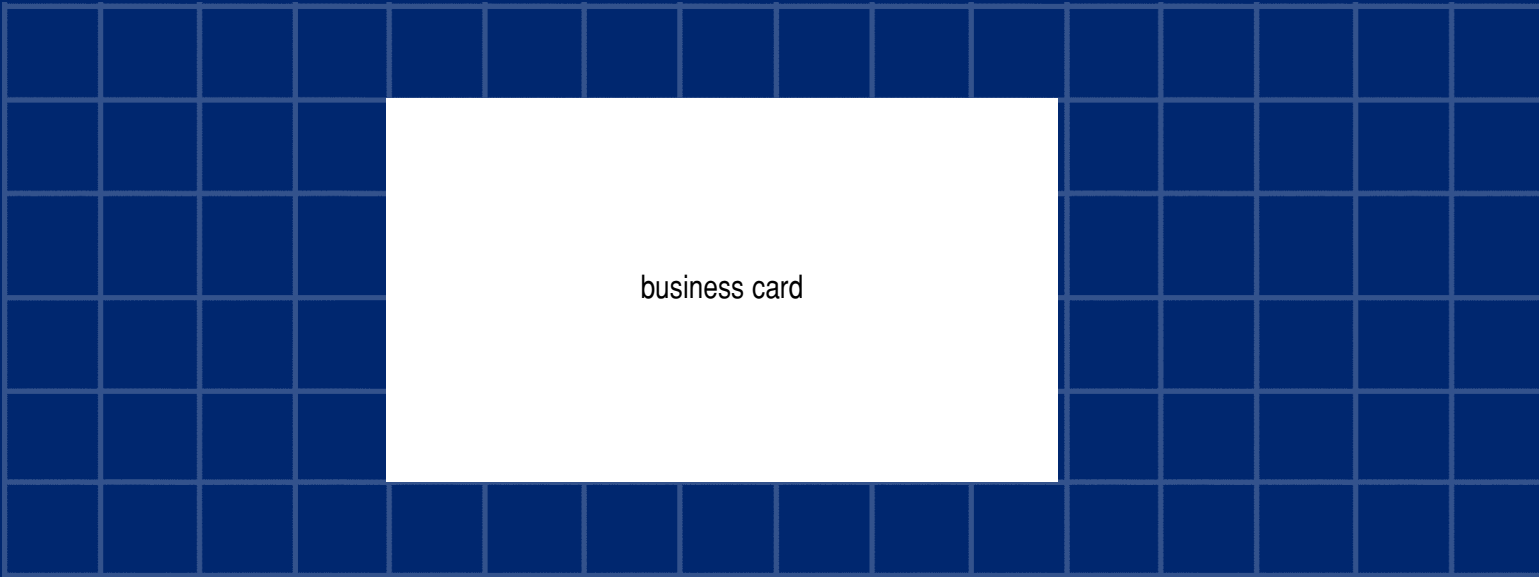
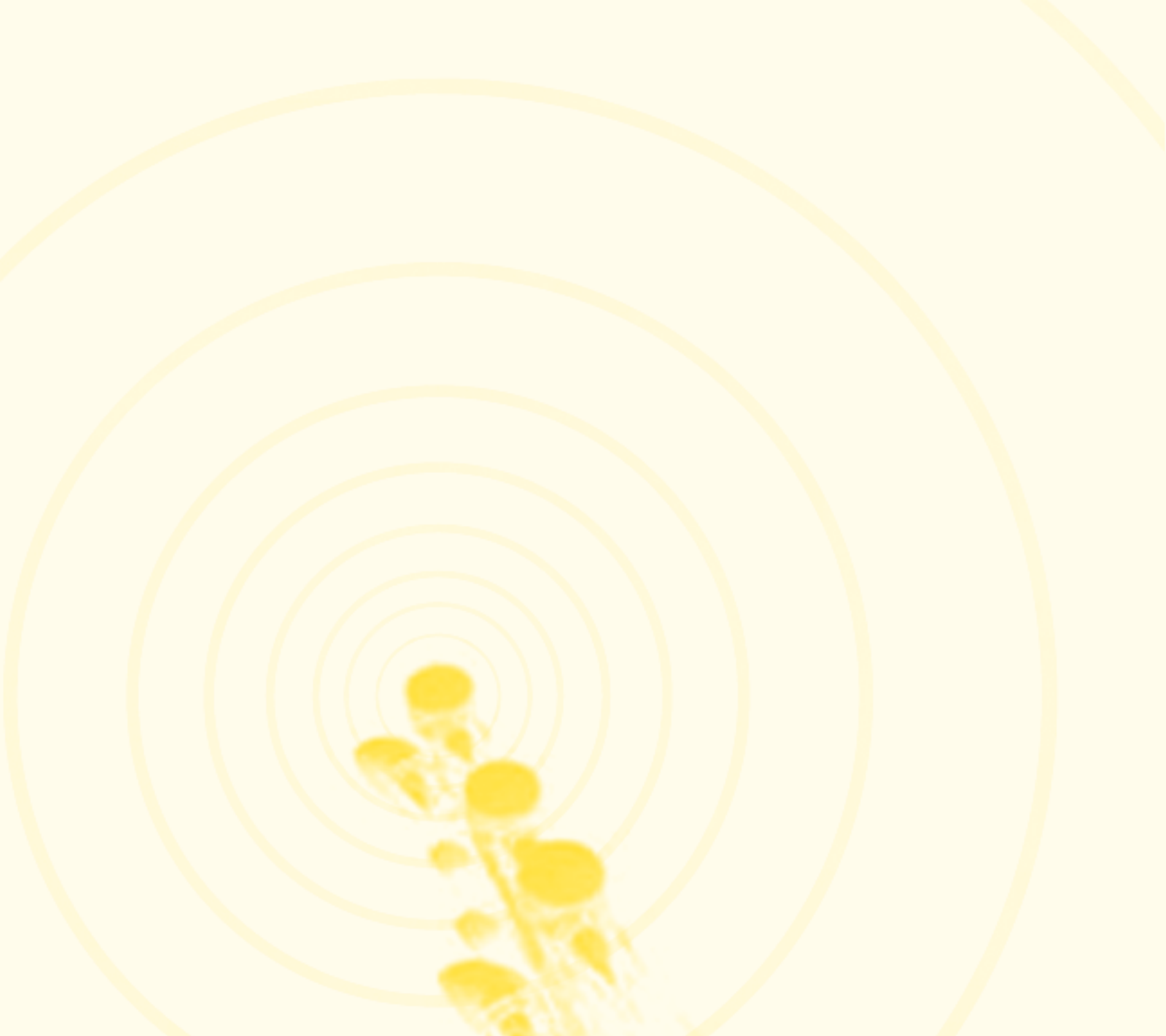
## **Advantages For Elected Officials**

- No need for competitive procurement;
- No user fees;
- No long-term infrastructure or system maintenance costs.

## **Advantages For Hoosier Citizens**

- Faster response during emergencies;
- Taxpayers won't have to pay for multiple radio systems;
- **SAFE-T will save lives and save money.**





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